

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A binding system, comprising:

a toe strap for securing the forward portion of a boot, wherein the toe strap has a movable end connected to a linkage so that the toe strap may be shortened or lengthened;

an ankle strap for securing the instep portion of a boot, wherein the ankle strap has a movable end connected to a linkage so that the ankle strap may be shortened or lengthened, wherein the linkages connected to the movable ends of the toe and ankle straps are the same linkage or different linkages connected to one another; and

an operable fastener located on a first strap being one of either the toe or the ankle strap, wherein the fastener shortens ~~or lengthens~~ the first strap on which it is located and the linkages cause the other strap to be shortened ~~or lengthened thereby~~ if the first strap is shortened and allow lengthening if the first strap is lengthened.

2. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 1, comprising a stop block held fast to the linkage connected to the toe strap, wherein the position of the stop block on the linkage connected to the toe strap sets a predetermined amount of travel for the linkage upon operation of the fastener.

3. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the linkages connected to the toe and ankle straps are the same first linkage, and a second end of the toe strap is connected to a second linkage, wherein the second linkage is connected to the ankle strap on the same end of the ankle strap as the first linkage.

4. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the linkages connected to the toe and ankle straps are different first and second linkages connected to one another, and a

third linkage is connected to a second side of the toe strap, wherein the first and third linkages connected to the toe strap are connected to a yoke, and wherein the yoke is connected to the second linkage and the second linkage is connected to the ankle strap.

5. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein a roller is provided to guide at least one linkage to the ankle strap.

6. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the linkages connected to the toe and ankle straps are the same first linkage, and a second linkage is connected to a second end of the toe strap, and the fastener comprises a component on a second end of the ankle strap and a component that is connected to the second linkage, and wherein the fastener component on the ankle strap and the fastener component connected to the second linkage are connectable to one another.

7. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 6, wherein the fastener comprises a ratchet, pawl, and strap ladder, wherein the ratchet and pawl are on the ankle strap, and the strap ladder is connected to the second linkage.

8. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the toe strap comprises at least two portions connected to one another, one end of the toe strap is held fast to the baseplate, and the length of the toe strap from end to end is adjustable by releasing the two strap portions and reconnecting the two portions at discrete positions.

9. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the linkage connected to the toe strap is held fast to one side of the baseplate, the toe strap comprises at least two portions in a moving relationship, and the toe strap portions can move past one another upon travel of the linkage connected to the toe strap.

10. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the linkages connected to the toe and ankle straps are the same first linkage, the first and second ends of said first linkage are held fast at first and second locations on the binding, the first linkage is connected to the ankle strap at a guide, wherein the ratio of the amount of travel of the toe strap in relation to the amount of travel of the ankle strap is other than 1.

11. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 10, wherein the ratio of the amount of travel of the toe strap to the amount of travel of the ankle strap is greater than one.

12. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 10, wherein the ratio of the amount of travel of the toe strap to the amount of travel of the ankle strap is less than one.

13. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 10, wherein the amount of travel of the toe strap is double the amount of travel of the ankle strap.

14. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the toe strap is bifurcated into two segments, each segment is connected to a different first and second linkage, the first and second linkages are connected to a third linkage, and the third linkage is the linkage connected to the ankle strap.

15. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the linkage connected to the toe strap has a biasing mechanism configured to resist the travel of the linkage.

16. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 15, wherein the biasing mechanism is a spring interposed between a stop block held fast to the linkage and a stop feature on the baseplate.

17. (Currently amended) A boot binding system, comprising:

a toe strap configured to pass over a toe portion of the boot, said toe strap having at least one end that is movable so that the toe strap may be shortened or lengthened;

an ankle strap configured to pass over the instep portion of the boot, said ankle strap having at least one end that is movable so that the toe strap may be shortened or lengthened;

a manually operable fastener located on a first strap being one of either the toe or the ankle strap; and

a movable linkage that connects the movable toe strap end to the movable ankle strap end such that ~~both the toe and the ankle strap are shortened or lengthened with operation of the fastener~~ the manually operable fastener shortens the first strap on which it is located and the movable linkage causes the other strap to be shortened if the first strap is shortened and allows lengthening if the first strap is lengthened.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A binding system for a boot, comprising:

a first strap connected to a linkage;

a second strap connected to the linkage; and

a manually operable fastener located on one of either the first or the second strap, wherein operation of said fastener shortens ~~or lengthens the first strap and second strap~~ the strap on which it is located and the linkage causes the other strap to be shortened if the first strap is shortened and allows lengthening if the first strap is lengthened.

20. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein operation of said fastener causes travel of said linkage connected to a first strap up to a predetermined position, and continued operation of said fastener further tensions the other strap, without further travel of the first strap beyond the predetermined position.

21. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein operation of said fastener causes said ankle strap to travel and causes said linkage connected to said toe strap to travel a proportionate ratio of the amount of travel of the ankle strap.

22. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 21, wherein the amount of travel of the linkage connected to the toe strap is double the amount of travel of the ankle strap.

23. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein travel of the ankle strap end connected to the linkage causes the linkage connected to the toe strap to travel.

24. (Previously presented) A snowboard boot binding system, comprising:
a baseplate;

a toe strap for securing the toe portion of a boot to the baseplate, wherein the toe strap has a first end and a second end;

an ankle strap for securing the instep portion of a boot to the baseplate, wherein the ankle strap has a first end and a second end;

a first linkage attached to the first end of the toe strap, the linkage being guided along the baseplate to the first end of the ankle strap;

a second linkage attached to the second end of the toe strap, the linkage being guided along the baseplate to the first end of the ankle strap; and

an ankle strap fastener for fastening the second end of the ankle strap to the baseplate in an adjustable manner, wherein operation of the ankle strap fastener to tension the ankle strap also tensions the first and the second linkage, which tension both ends of the toe strap.

25. (Previously presented) The snowboard boot binding system of Claim 24, wherein the first linkage has a spring between a stop feature on the base plate and the end of the toe strap.

26. (Previously presented) The snowboard boot binding system of Claim 24, wherein the second linkage has a spring between a stop feature on the base plate and the end of the toe strap.

27. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the linkages comprise one or more cables.

28. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 19, wherein the linkages ~~comprise~~ linkage comprises one or more cables.

29. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 24, wherein the linkages comprise one or more cables.

30. (New) The binding system of Claim 17, wherein the movable linkage comprises one or more cables.